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*FIFA's Secretary General Jerome Valcke has expressed serious doubts as to whether South Africa will complete its preparations for the World Cup in 2010. With 18 months to go, he warns the organisers there 'isn't a day to lose'. From Johannesburg Alex Capstick reports:*

It's unusual for FIFA to make such a strong statement. Football's world governing body has **been fully behind** South Africa's preparations.

But it now seems **inevitable** that some projects will not **meet their deadlines**. Most of the concerns **surround** South Africa's **commitment** to **overhaul** its transport system and improve security. Jerome Valcke, who is **the second in command** to the president Sepp Blatter at FIFA, said there's simply no time for further delays.

The local organisers remain convinced that they will **deliver on** their promises and, despite the warning from FIFA, the possibility of moving the **tournament** to another country is not **an option**.

Alex Capstick, BBC News, Johannesburg

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>been fully behind</b>	completely supported
<b>inevitable</b>	if something (usually unpleasant) is inevitable, it is impossible to avoid it or prevent it from happening
<b>meet their deadlines</b>	be completed on time
<b>surround</b>	here, are about
<b>commitment</b>	a promise and/or a firm decision to do something
<b>overhaul</b>	here, significantly improve
<b>the second in command</b>	the second most powerful
<b>deliver on</b>	here, fulfil
<b>tournament</b>	a competition where a number of games are played, and the winners of each of those games then play against each other
<b>an option</b>	a possibility, a possible choice

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